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8<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a busy start to the autumn term for us; learning the new procedures for our 'new normal' operations and practice at both Meadow Wood and Breakspeare. Our focus has been to support the students in adjusting to the school routines and to continue their learning. At the same time we have worked to ensure that the environments are safe and that our working practice in the wider school community is in line with COVID-19 guidance from DfE, PH and HCC.

I have been delighted to observe the students' engagement in their learning when Darren and I have been carrying-out our autumn learning walks. It has been really positive to observe how quickly most of the students are able to transition from the recovery curriculum to their normal curriculum. However we will continue to include flexible, individual adaptations to secure a positive transition to school with those students who continue to need this.

I would like to particularly thank parents and carers from Silver, Purple, Blue, Yellow, White and Green classes at Breakspeare for your fantastic support when managing our limited learning space whilst we have been waiting for our new building to be completed. The move to the new unit has already started and commencing Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October all students will be able to start their school day in their permanent classrooms.

Please note the following information:

**PARENTS' EVENINGS:** Parents' evenings will be replaced with 'focused telephone discussions' with parents and carers. These phone calls will take place on two occasions in the autumn term during the weeks commencing 13<sup>th</sup> October and 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Your child's teacher will call you either during the day during their PPA time or after school hours. If the timing of the call is not convenient please agree a more suitable time with the teacher.

The areas of discussions next week (commencing 13<sup>th</sup> October) will be; your child settling back to school life, their progress on the recovery curriculum, feedback on the learning activities that were sent home during the lock down, home learning focus, home-school communication. It is also important that you ask questions and give feedback on the areas that are important for you. The follow up discussions will take place during the week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> November.

**PARENTS' COFFEE MORNING / AFTERNOON:** Will take place via Zoom call. We have chosen to use Zoom in order to secure easy access for a larger group of parents and carers. Zoom is a good platform for informal meetings. We will send a link code closer to the following dates:

- Breakspeare coffee morning Fri 20<sup>th</sup> November 10 – 11
- Meadow Wood afternoon tea Fri 20<sup>th</sup> November 1.30 – 2.30

The coffee morning / afternoon tea will provide an opportunity to share experiences and thoughts in a friendly atmosphere with other parents.

**PARMITER'S AND THE SUNFLOWER FEDERATION SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT** will be a collaborative video-production that will be shared on social media platforms.

**SCHOOL PHOTOS** will be taken at the earliest during March 2021.

PEDIATRICIAN CLINICS will resume at Meadow wood School after half term. The parents are kindly asked not to arrive to school too early to adhere social distancing guidance inside the school building. Unfortunately paediatrician clinics cannot open at Breakspeare due to COVID-19 social distancing guidance.

NEW SCHOOL NURSE AT BREAKSPEARE Tanya Marshall will start her induction at Breakspeare School and will work alongside with Olivia until she will start her maternity leave.

HEALTH CARE PROTOCOLS. Please send updated health care protocols to school as a matter of urgency as soon as Olivia or Sarah, our school nurses, have sent them home for your signatures. If our medical team doesn't receive these documents signed by return, your child may not be able to attend school. Health care protocols are needed for example for the administration of essential medicine during the school day.

COVID TESTS. The staff and students are advised to get tested for COVID-19 if they present with core symptoms; high temperature, new / continuous cough, loss of sense of taste or smell.

We have parents in both schools who have taken their child to get tested either privately or via NHS routes. Some families have ordered a home kit from the NHS and for some we have provided a home test kit from school. We have some students where neither parents nor health professionals have managed to take their test. On these occasions the child needs to self-isolate for 10 days and other family members up to 14 days. Please see the further guidance below.

When a test is needed we recommend that you take the priority route and get your child tested by a health professional. This is to ensure the accuracy of the test. Tests results come back relatively quickly. In our experience for most cases within 1 to 3 days.

NO CONFIRMED CASES of COVID have been diagnosed with our students or staff in Breakspeare or Meadow Wood Schools. Some students have isolated for a period of time as a member of their household has been diagnosed with COVID-19 – please be assured that the PH guidance has been followed on the child's safe return school.

It would present as an extremely high risk for the school community if a child or a member of staff comes to school when a member of their household had been diagnosed with COVID-19. I trust that all members of our school community understand that is unlawful to break the self-isolation guidance and put others health at risk. Please note the message from HCC about this matter at the end of my letter.

We are very grateful that you as, parents and carers, take the safety of your child and the school community seriously. It is important that we continue to be vigilant when following the government guidance on social distancing, hand hygiene, and self-isolation. This will keep our schools open and ensures a safe learning and working environment for our students and staff. I really appreciate all your efforts in securing the safety of your family and the school community.

DfE HELPLINE: The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline remains available to answer questions about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education and children's social care. Please listen carefully to the available options and select the most appropriate to your nursery, school, or college's current situation. To support the transition back to education, DfE has extended their opening hours and are now available 10am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline by calling:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm

Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm

Thank you for your continued support.

Take care. Stay safe.

Merja

## Appendix:

### 1. Information from HCC to the parents and carers:

#### **'Self-isolation fines and how to enforce**

We have sadly had some incidents reported where people have not followed Government guidance on self-isolation and knowingly attended school whilst symptomatic or have been living with someone who is symptomatic or that has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

While we know (and hope) that incidents like this will be rare, the impact this has on our bubble systems and the safety of other students and staff is wide reaching. We are therefore asking for schools' help to remind parents and carers that to knowingly ignore the self-isolation guidance is breaking the law and they could be fined £1,000, you can find the latest Government information at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-legal-duty-to-self-isolate-comes-into-force-today>

We do need to be sensitive about our decision making, however it is also important that parents, carers and children understand the severity and impact of not disclosing information and following the guidance as they are putting the health of others at risk. '

### 2. Further information:

**DUTY TO SELF-ISOLATE:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-legal-duty-to-self-isolate-comes-into-force-today>

#### **UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR SPECIAL SCHOOLS**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>

#### **PPE IN SCHOOLS**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

#### **FACE COVERINGS IN SCHOOLS**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

#### **FACE COVERINGS**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

#### **GUIDANCE FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH POSSIBLE OR CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASE**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

#### **GETTING TESTED**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

#### **COVID- TEST**

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>